

**THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

**2001 PLANNING GRANT
GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION**



**The San Francisco Bay Trail Project is a nonprofit organization
administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments**

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Planning Grant Application

The San Francisco Bay Trail Project announces the availability of grant funds to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to extend the Bay Trail

INTRODUCTION

The California Legislature and Governor Gray Davis recently approved an appropriation of \$7.5 million to the State Coastal Conservancy for development of the Bay Trail. The money comes from the parks and open space bond passed by California voters in March 2000. A portion of the money will be used to fund projects through a competitive grant program administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments' Bay Trail Project. The Regional Development Program (RDP) is intended to encourage government agencies and nonprofit organizations to plan and construct undeveloped segments or improve existing trail as shown in the San Francisco Bay Trail Plan (map attached). The Bay Trail Project is now soliciting grant applications to fund qualified projects.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Purpose

This program is designed to accelerate development of the 400-mile Bay Trail and to take advantage of changed conditions or new alignment opportunities by awarding grants for planning and other efforts to overcome obstacles to trail development. *Separate forms are available for Bay Trail construction projects; in addition, short form inquiries are available for conceptual projects not yet ready for formal application.*

Schedule

An informational forum will be held to present the program and discuss application procedures. Applicants not familiar with the Regional Development Program are encouraged to attend.

- **Wednesday, February 14, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.** on the first floor in the MetroCenter at 101 8th Street (corner of 8th and Oak) in Oakland. (Directly across the street from the Lake Merritt BART Station.)

Completed applications must be received at the Bay Trail office by **5:00 p.m., April 6, 2001**. Notification of selection will occur following final authorization by the Coastal Conservancy Board.

Application Format

Seven sets of application materials, including all attachments, must be submitted. Applicants must respond to questions in the spaces on the application forms provided (except where noted), or on exact copies. Please do not use a font size less than 10 point. Application forms may be downloaded from the Bay Trail website at <http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov>. Applications must be sent to:

The San Francisco Bay Trail Project
c/o Association of Bay Area Governments
Attn: Janet McBride
P.O. Box 2050
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

Facsimiles will not be accepted. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Project Selection

A selection panel working with Bay Trail Project staff will evaluate projects based on responses to the application questions. Grant funds will be awarded at the discretion of the selection committee to the projects judged to best meet the established program objectives through the application criteria. Depending on the project proposals and on project readiness, a portion of the funding may be reserved for a future funding cycle. There is an expectation that funding will be allocated over more than one grant cycle within the next two to three years. The selection panel will include members of the San Francisco Bay Trail Board and a Coastal Conservancy representative. The Coastal Conservancy Board of Directors has final authorization over the grant awards.

Grant Amounts

There are no established minimum or maximum grant amounts for this program. Awards will be based on project needs, competing demands for funds, and the quality of project submittals. In prior funding cycles for planning projects, grant awards ranged between \$15,000 and \$60,000. However, significantly higher funding is available this year, allowing greater flexibility.

Inquiries

Please direct questions to the Bay Trail Project staff:

Counties:	Alameda, Solano	Marin, Napa, San Mateo and Sonoma	Contra Costa, Santa Clara and San Francisco
Contact:	Janet McBride	Laura Thompson	Niko Letunic
Telephone:	(510) 464-7935	(510) 464-7909	(510) 464-7915
Fax:	(510) 433-5535	(510) 433-5509	(510) 433-5515
E-mail:	janetm@abag.ca.gov	laurat@abag.ca.gov	nikol@abag.ca.gov

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

Local governments (cities, counties, districts), land trusts, qualifying nonprofit organizations,* and state or Federal government agencies are eligible. Cooperative partnerships are encouraged, including participation by local business, community or nonprofit groups.

Eligible Projects

Funds may be awarded for planning, design or feasibility studies, technical studies or other efforts to overcome obstacles to future development and advance Bay Trail implementation. Examples include detailed alignment feasibility studies, engineering studies, soil testing.

Note: The following are not eligible for grant funding: a) trail projects or design work required as part of a permit approval or as mitigation for another project; b) NEPA and/or CEQA documentation**; or c) permitting costs.

* To qualify as the project lead, a nonprofit must be a 501(c)3, and among the principal charitable purposes must be managing land for scientific, educational, recreational, agricultural, scenic, or open space opportunities.

** Exceptions may apply on a case-by-case basis.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are to submit seven sets of completed and typed application forms and all applicable attachments identified below.

Required Attachments

**Please check
if attached**

1. Clear project location maps superimposed on street map, if relevant, with local landmarks showing location relative to the Bay Trail alignment. ☐
2. Color photographs of the project site. ☐
3. Detailed site description, including an identification of adjacent land uses and habitat areas. Include an aerial photograph, if available, with project area superimposed. ☐
4. A project timeline. ☐
5. A project budget and the amount and description of financial contributions from funding agencies, if applicable. ☐
6. The following document(s):
 - a) a resolution of the governing body of the lead agency authorizing:
 - i) submission of this application,
 - ii) acceptance of the grant, if awarded,
 - iii) execution of the grant contract and related documents, and
 - iv) designation of the agency's authorized representative(s),
 - b) for projects with multiple partners, a fully executed Memorandum of Understanding, or equivalent agreement(s), which commits each member of the partnership to perform as described in the application. Alternatively, a resolution from the governing board of each partner identifying the level of commitment described in the application. Such agreement(s) or resolution(s) may be made contingent on award of the grant for which the application is made. ☐
7. Excerpts of relevant adopted general or master plans, if applicable. ☐
8. Letters of support. ☐

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Grant Application Form

Part I: Applicant/Project Information

Project lead agency name: _____

Address: _____

Contact name and title: _____

Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

Names of partners: _____

Proposal prepared by: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Project title: _____

Project location: **City:** _____ **County:** _____

Proposed start date: _____ **Estimated completion date:** _____

Grant request: \$ _____ **Total project budget:** \$ _____

Matching Funds (use attachments if necessary):

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Commitment date</u>
\$ _____	_____	_____
\$ _____	_____	_____
\$ _____	_____	_____

In-kind contributions (please describe and estimate value). Use attachments if necessary:

Project Description (please limit to one page):

Is any portion of the project required to mitigate the effects of another project? If so, please describe.

Part II: Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be evaluated by the Selection Committee using the following criteria:

1. Rationale for Planning Study

- a. Describe why it would be advantageous to conduct a planning/feasibility study. Have local conditions changed? Have new alignment opportunities arisen? Are there long-standing obstacles this study would seek to overcome?

2. Critical Bay Trail Link

- a. What is the length of the Bay Trail segment the study will address?
- b. Would this project close a gap fully linking two existing spine segments of the Bay Trail?

- c. **Does the trail study involve a spine, spur, or connector trail?** (Note: Spine segments are the main trail network that create a continuous corridor linking all nine Bay Area counties; spur trails provide access from the Bay Trail spine to points of natural, historic and cultural interest along the Bay shoreline; and connector trails link to the Bay Trail and provide restricted access to interpretive trails in environmentally-sensitive areas along the shoreline and connections to recreational opportunities as well as residential and employment centers inland from the Bay.)

- d. **Would the trail provide new access where none existed before or new destinations?**

3. Partnership/Leverage

- a. **Does the project demonstrate a collaborative approach to bringing multiple parties together? If yes, please describe.**

- b. **Have private sector and/or community contributions or in-kind services been included? If yes, please describe.**

4. Regional Need/Connections

- a. **Would the segment connect to other existing trails, parks, education facilities, or other popular destinations? If yes, please describe.**

- b. Would the trail segment have potential to serve as an alternative transportation route as well as a recreational corridor? If yes, please describe.**

- c. Would the affected section facilitate community access and connections? If yes, please describe.**

- d. Is the proposed Bay Trail segment included in adopted local general plans or master plans? Identify pertinent plans.**

5. Community Support

- a. Please describe the level of support of local decision-makers and relevant community groups. Letters of support are encouraged.**